United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1347
10 March 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Leaders of the two communities in Cyprus accept invitation by Secretary-General to come to New York for one-day joint meeting on 30 March to discuss preparation for resumption of substantive, direct negotiations.

+ Secretary-General appeals to kidnappers of United Nations military observer in Angola to release him "unconditionally and without further delay".

+ Special Representative of Secretary-General for Cambodia, in statement to Supreme National Council, reports recent decline in military fighting; calls for creation of neutral political environment in preparation for May elections.

+ Secretary-General reiterates the principle of sovereignty of Kuwait; urges Iraq to respect Emirate's "independence, territorial integrity and international legitimacy".

+ Prime Minister of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) says presence of UNPROFOR in United Nations protected areas is "essential factor" for reaching political solution to conflict in former Yugoslavia; urges UNPROFOR to stay beyond end of mandate, 31 March.

+ United Nations University publishes book on legal aspects of environmental change.

* * *

The leaders of the two communities in Cyprus have accepted an invitation by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to come to United Nations Headquarters in New York for a one-day joint meeting on 30 March to discuss the timing, modalities and preparation for the resumption of substantive, direct negotiations.

According to a statement issued by the spokesman for United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) today, the invitation was handed over

(more)

For information media—not an official record

to the leaders of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots by the Secretary-General's representatives for Cyprus during separate meetings on 8 and 9 March.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cyprus is Oscar Camillion. The Alternate Special Representative is Gustave Feissel.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appealed for the "unconditional and immediate" release of Captain Fayez H.A. Shdaifat of Jordan, a military observer serving with the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), who was kidnapped on 23 February while on duty in Cabinda.

According to a statement issued at Headquarters, Captain Shdaifat has still not been released despite persistent efforts by UNAVEM II. A group, which has admitted responsibility for the abduction, claims it is holding Captain Shdaifat. Contacts are under way in Kinshasa to obtain his release.

A United Nations spokesman said today that the Security Council would meet in consultations tomorrow to hear an oral report by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, on the situation in that country. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, is also expected to brief the Council on matters relating to the question of human rights and refugees.

* * *

Although military fighting in Cambodia had decreased recently, much remained to be done with regard to the creation of a neutral political environment in preparation for the elections scheduled from 23 to 25 May, Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for that country, told the Cambodian Supreme National Council at its meeting yesterday in Phnom Penh.

In his statement to the Council, Mr. Akashi stressed the importance of a political environment in which "clashes" between the 20 Cambodian parties were confined to "ideas and words". Physical violence should have no place at all in a civilized political campaign, he said.

Mr. Akashi went on to say that considerable restrictions on freedom of expression and on freedom of movement remained in many areas of Cambodia. He informed the Council of his proposal to the Human Rights Commission in Geneva that a Special Rapporteur be appointed to monitor the human rights situation in Cambodia, and to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights that it assume an operational presence in Cambodia later this year.

(more)

At a press conference in Phnom Penh following the meeting, Mr. Akashi said he had also discussed with the Council a list of activities forbidden during the campaign, which will begin on 7 April, including public opinion polls.

On the question of preservation of natural resources of Cambodia, Mr. Akashi said he had proposed 30 per cent reduction in the volume of sawn timber as compared to 1991 -- a proposal which two of the Cambodian parties had accepted. On the exploitation and export of minerals and gems, the Council had adopted a global moratorium with emphasis on commercial companies using large equipment.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday with the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations, Mohammad A. Abulhasan, who delivered a message from the Emir of Kuwait regarding recent articles in the Iraqi press, in which Iraq repeats its claim over Kuwait.

According to a United Nations spokesman, the Secretary-General told Mr. Abulhasan that "the United Nations position was clear", as could be seen in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. Kuwait was a sovereign member State of the United Nations, and "Iraq should respect the independence, territorial integrity and international legitimacy of Kuwait", the spokesman said.

* * *

The Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugolsavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Radoje Kontic, has said that the presence of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the United Nations Protected Areas in Croatia was "an essential factor" for the reaching of a political solution to the Yugoslav conflict.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 8 March, Mr. Kontic said there was "no doubt" that keeping peace and security in the Protected Areas "directly" contributed to the Geneva and New York negotiating processes. He reiterated his request that the UNPROFOR mandate be extended "even after 31 March", saying he agreed with the Secretary-General's assessment of the situation in his recent report that the withdrawal of UNPROFOR would "almost certainly result in the resumption of large-scale hostilities in the areas where they are deployed".
S/25382

* * *

The United Nations University (UNU) has announced the publication of a new study entitled "Environmental Change and International Law: New Challenges and Dimensions".

(more)

The book, edited by Edith Brown Weiss, Professor of Law at Georgetown University and UNU research scholar, focusses on new directions in international environmental law and, to a lesser extent, in international institutions. Nine other UNU scholars from around the world have contributed to the research study with essays on the growing common interest in the environment; the scientific uncertainty about the environment; the relevance of human rights; and the relationship between economic development and environmental protection.

Among the scholars are well known international experts such as Peter Thacher, a former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Senior Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and Paul Szasz, the former Deputy Legal Counsel of the United Nations.

* *** *